

Appendix 4: Focus Group Screener

Focus Group Screener

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 10 minutes per response. This time includes the length of time allotted for the screening questions. An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to: NIH, Project Clearance Branch, 6705 Rockledge Drive, MSC 7974, Bethesda, MD 20892-7974, ATTN: PRA (0925-0585). Do not return the completed form to this address.

Recruit 11 to seat 8-9 respondents in each focus group

Participant screening will be conducted over the phone. A professional recruitment vendor will contact individuals from their proprietary recruitment database. Please note that the vendor will have access to African American, Hispanic, and MSM populations.

Hello, I'm _____ with _____, an independent consumer research firm. We are not selling or promoting any product or service. We are conducting a research study for the National Institutes of Health with adults to talk about health research issues. Everyone who participates in these discussions will receive \$75. I would like to ask you some questions to see if you qualify for one of the discussion groups. These questions will only take a few moments to answer. The groups will be held at **[Time]** on **[Date]** in **[City]** and will last two hours or less. You will receive \$75 when the discussion group ends. Do you have time now to answer a few questions?

Are you aged 18 or older? **If no**, is there anyone in the house aged 18 or older?
[If no one qualifies in the household, thank and terminate]

1. In the past 6 months have you participated in a market research study or interview where you were paid for your time and/or for providing your opinions?

- Yes..... Terminate
- No..... Continue

2. Have you or anyone in your home worked in or retired from any of the following industries?
(Read and record response)

- Marketing or public relations..... Terminate
- Advertising Terminate
- Market research..... Terminate
- Medical field (e.g., doctor, nurse, or lab or x-ray technician) Terminate
- Medical clinic, hospital or doctor's office..... Terminate
- HIV/AIDS Activism/Advocacy/Service Provision Terminate

3. Are you now or have you ever participated in an HIV vaccine trial?

- Yes..... Continue
- No..... Continue
- Don't know..... Continue

For this project, it is important that we talk to groups of people from a variety of races, ethnicities, genders and sexual orientations. The next few questions will determine if you are part of one of the groups we are still recruiting for.

4. First, which of the following best describes your gender?

- Female (Recruit for Female Groups Only)..... Skip to Question 5
- Male (Recruit for Heterosexual Male or MSM Groups)..... Skip to Question 7
- Other, or refuses to answer Terminate

FEMALE GENDER ONLY

5. Now I am going to ask about how you would describe your sexual orientation. Would you describe yourself as:

- Heterosexual..... Continue
- Bi-sexual..... Continue
- Homosexual or Lesbian..... Terminate
- Other..... Terminate

6. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent, such as Mexican, Mexican-American, Central American, South American, or Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish-Caribbean background? Which of the following racial/ethnic categories best describes you?

- African American/Black (Non-Hispanic) — Skip to 10
- Hispanic — Continue to 6a
- Asian — Terminate
- Caucasian/White (Non-Hispanic) — Terminate
- Native American — Terminate
- Other — Terminate

- Yes..... Continue (and make sure to ask 6a and 6b)
- No..... Continue
- Don't Know..... Continue
- Refuses to Answer..... Terminate

Now I am going to read you a list of categories. Which of the following categories best describe your race?

- American Indian or Alaska Native..... Terminate, if not Hispanic/Latino
- Asian..... Terminate, if not Hispanic/Latino
- Black or African-American Skip to 10
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander..... Terminate, if not Hispanic/Latino
- White Skip to 10
- Other: _____ Terminate, if not Hispanic/Latino

() Refuses to Answer..... Terminate

Make sure to ask Hispanic/Latino respondents Q 6a and Q 6b

6a. **[Ask ONLY of Hispanic respondents]** And what is your family's background? For example, are you Cuban, Dominican, Puerto Rican, Ecuadorian, Salvadoran, Mexican or something else?

- () Cuban..... Continue to 6b
- () Dominican..... Continue to 6b
- () Puerto Rican..... Continue to 6b
- () Ecuadorian..... Continue to 6b
- () Salvadoran..... Continue to 6b
- () Mexican..... Continue to 6b
- () Other: RECORD: _____..... Continue to 6b

Monitor to ensure (1) a variety of Hispanic/Latino backgrounds are represented by the study, (2) participants in any group will be comfortable with other participants.

6b. **[Ask ONLY of Hispanic respondents]** What language do you mainly speak at home?

- () English..... Skip to 10
- () Spanish..... Skip to 10
- () Both English and Spanish..... Skip to 10
- () Other..... Terminate

MALE GENDER ONLY

7. Now I am going to ask about how you would describe your sexual orientation. Would you describe yourself as:

- () Heterosexual..... Skip to 9
- () Bi-sexual..... Continue
- () Gay, Same Sex Loving, or Homosexual..... Continue
- () Other..... Terminate

MSM ONLY

8. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent, such as Mexican, Mexican-American, Central American, South American, or Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish-Caribbean background?

- () Yes..... Continue (and make sure to ask 8a and 8b)
- () No..... Continue
- () Don't Know..... Continue
- () Refuses to Answer..... Terminate

Now I am going to read you a list of categories. Which of the following categories best describe your race?

- American Indian or Alaska Native..... Skip to 10
- Asian..... Skip to 10
- Black or African-American Skip to 10
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander..... Skip to 10
- White Skip to 10
- Other: _____ Skip to 10
- Refuses to Answer..... Terminate

Make sure to ask Hispanic/Latino respondents Q 8a and 8b

9. Which of the following racial/ethnic categories best describes you?

- African American/Black (Non-Hispanic)..... Skip to 10
- Hispanic..... Continue to 8a
- Asian..... Skip to 10
- Caucasian/White (Non-Hispanic)..... Skip to 10
- Native American..... Skip to 10
- Other..... Skip to 10

Recruit the following MSM groups:

Mixed MSM Groups: 4-6 Caucasian (Non-Hispanic) per group and remainder of group should be a mix of races/ethnicities

African American MSM Groups: 100% African American

Hispanic MSM Groups: 100% Hispanic

8a. **[Ask ONLY of Hispanic respondents]** And what is your family's background? For example, are you Cuban, Dominican, Puerto Rican, Ecuadorian, Salvadoran, Mexican or something else?

- Cuban..... Continue to 12
- Dominican..... Continue to 12
- Puerto Rican..... Continue to 12
- Ecuadorian..... Continue to 12
- Salvadoran..... Continue to 12
- Mexican..... Continue to 12
- Other: RECORD: _____ Continue to 12

HETEROSEXUAL MALE ONLY

10. Are you of Hispanic or Latino origin or descent, such as Mexican, Mexican-American, Central American, South American, or Puerto Rican, Cuban, or other Spanish-Caribbean background?

- Yes..... Continue (and make sure to ask 9a and 9b)
- No..... Continue
- Don't Know..... Continue
- Refuses to Answer..... Terminate

Now I am going to read you a list of categories. Which of the following categories best describe your race?

- American Indian or Alaska Native..... Terminate, if not Hispanic/Latino
- Asian..... Terminate, if not Hispanic/Latino
- Black or African-American Skip to 10
- Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander..... Terminate, if not Hispanic/Latino
- White Skip to 10
- Other: _____ Terminate, if not Hispanic/Latino
- Refuses to Answer..... Terminate

Make sure to ask Hispanic/Latino respondents Q 9a and Q 9b

11. Which of the following racial/ethnic categories best describes you?

- African American/Black (Non-Hispanic)..... Skip to 10
- Hispanic..... Continue to 9a
- Asian..... Terminate
- Caucasian/White (Non-Hispanic)..... Terminate
- Native American..... Terminate
- Other..... Terminate

9a. [Ask ONLY of Hispanic respondents] And what is your family's background? For example, are you Cuban, Dominican, Puerto Rican, Ecuadorian, Salvadoran, Mexican or something else?

- Cuban..... Continue to 9b
- Dominican..... Continue to 9b
- Puerto Rican..... Continue to 9b
- Ecuadorian..... Continue to 9b
- Salvadoran..... Continue to 9b
- Mexican..... Continue to 9b
- Other: RECORD: _____..... Continue to 9b

Monitor to ensure (1) a variety of Hispanic/Latino backgrounds are represented by the study, (2) participants in any group will be comfortable with other participants.

9b. [Ask ONLY of Hispanic respondents] What language do you mainly speak at home?

- English..... Continue to 10
- Spanish..... Continue to 10
- Both English and Spanish..... Continue to 10
- Other..... Terminate

FOR ALL GROUPS

OK, just a few more questions for our records.

12. Please tell me your age.
(Record actual age) _____

- Age 18 to 25..... Terminate
- Age 26 to 35..... Continue
- Age 35+ (older than 35 years)..... Terminate

13. Which best describes your total annual household income?
 Less than \$X..... Continue
 More than \$X..... Continue

Recruit half above median income and half below median income for each audience in each location.

**New Orleans, LA: \$35,409
Chicago, IL: \$44,473
Los Angeles, CA: \$46,292**

14. Which of the following categories best describes your level of education?
 Did not graduate high school..... Continue
 Completed high school..... Continue
 Some college/technical training/associate's degree..... Continue
 Completed college..... Continue
 Graduate degree (master's or higher)..... Continue

Recruit a mix.

15. Are you currently employed full time or part-time, or are you out of work or looking for work?
- () Full-time..... Continue to 13a
 - () Part-time..... Continue to 13a
 - () Not working..... Continue to 14

13a. **[If employed]** What company do you work for and what kind of work do you do?

SPECIFY:Employer: _____
 Note if self-employed

Work description: _____

Please use question to ensure that groups do not include a large number of self-employed individuals.

16. Are you comfortable reading and reviewing materials in [English/Spanish]?
- () Yes, English Continue
 - () Yes, Spanish Continue
 - () Yes, English and Spanish Continue
 - () No/Don't know Thank and Terminate

Individuals in English groups must read English. Individuals in Bilingual English/Spanish Groups must read English, Spanish, or both English and Spanish.

17. Finally, can you think of a television show or movie that you watched lately? Can you tell me something about what happened in the film/program and why you enjoyed it?

.....

This question is intended to establish whether the respondent is reasonably articulate, fluent in English or Spanish, and willing to converse. If respondent is difficult to understand or has trouble communicating (e.g., “shuts down”), thank and terminate.

Invitation

Thank you for answering my questions. I would like to tell you a little more about the discussion group. The group will meet on **[Date]** at **[Time]** at our focus group facility in **[CITY, GIVE ADDRESS]**. The group will consist of 7-8 other people, such as yourself, and a moderator. It will meet for 2 hours. You will receive \$75 for participating. Several individuals working on this research study may observe the groups from behind a one-way mirror.

So that we can start and end on time, please plan to arrive about 15 minutes early to pick up your nametag. We are counting on your participation, so please be sure to contact us as soon as possible if something comes up and you can't attend. **(GIVE PHONE NUMBER).**

Also, do you wear glasses or use a hearing aid? If so, please remember to bring them. Some activities will involve reading and listening.

Has hearing aid *(check here)*

Has glasses *(check here)*

[ONLY if respondent asks for the topic of the focus group, please tell them “HIV vaccine research.” Please record if the participant asks about this and ask if they are still interested in participating. If the answer is “no” please ask why and record the answer.]

Before we hang up, let me get the correct spelling of your name, and your address and phone numbers so we can send you a confirmation letter with directions to our facility and give you a reminder call the day of the group.

NAME _____

HOME PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

WORK PHONE _____ CELL PHONE _____ E-MAIL _____

Thanks, again, for your time and we'll see you at the group!